

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 22
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PEW NEWS



“Eyes of Love”

Hope for Eyes of Love

In the month of February, we are continuing to explore the theme of hope. Hope is needed in our individual lives, but there is a huge hunger for hope in society as well. Without hope, we start to question the potential for improvement in society.

A common theme that is building in our Newberg community is the need to bridge together with people who believe differently than us. We are being invited to see people through the eyes of love. The alternative feels easier. It would be easier to see through our own lenses with judgment of others who see things differently.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. remains a voice for our times because he had the audacity to have hope that the world would change. He believed that people could develop eyes of love for the person who came from a different culture, a different faith, a different perspective from our own.

Choosing to love a person with a different perspective did not prevent King from working for justice and for pursuing peaceful actions of protest, but he kept his moral conviction that he must love everyone. King's teaching on love grew out of his own faith in Jesus Christ and his study of the nonviolent philosophy of Gandhi.

As a church in Newberg, we have the moral imperative to love all, while seeking justice and unity in our town and county. We are invited to stay connected to the highs and lows of our community and to choose an approach that both chooses to identify with the vulnerable in our community, while calling us to live into the ideal of love. We are called to love, justice, and peace.

February is Black History month. This is also the month with Valentine's Day, a day dedicated to love. May this be a time for us to remember our call to love people of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds and to commit ourselves to love all people while addressing the problem of racism and other elements of injustice. Seeing through the eyes of love is what Jesus commands us to do. It is our moral commitment. Seeing through the eyes of love is the only way we will experience hope.



If you are in need of prayer or know someone who is, please contact Katherine in the front office so that you can be added to our prayer list and thus served by our congregation.



Please send up prayers of thanksgiving and praise as Shirley and Alan Kolb's granddaughter, Blayke, appears stable with her epilepsy medication. May she continue to heal!



Shirley and Alan Kolb's son-in-law, RJ, is in the step down unit out of the ICU following his brain bleed a week ago. Treatment continues with efforts to stabilize his blood pressure and the introduction of therapies. Please pray for his healing and recovery, as well as for our daughter Cynthia, and their children.



Session Meeting

1-11-22
6:30 pm

Advent was a meaningful season with Pastor Chris leading us together to celebrate the gift of Jesus. Two memorials were held in January, and individuals were visited by Pastor Chris, deepening relationships, despite the impact of Omicron. Looking forward to the formation of a Care Team to help keep people close during these Covid

Times. Deacons will not be doing home visits due to the Covid surge this month. Deacons supported the reception for Dick Sahagian’s memorial and assisted with the December 19th Sorum family Christmas party held in the Fellowship Hall. We are grateful that Jenifer Henry will be joining the Deacons soon. We are also excited to welcome Gene Dykema, Rosemary Dykema, Bob Hamilton, and Libbi Hamilton as new members.

Adult Spiritual Formation Class is going well with a Spiritual Wisdom course coming up that will be taught by Bruce Murphy. A study titled “Seeing Color” was led by Di Murphy and Dan McCracken on January 16th. Another incredible lesson on science and faith was taught by Bob Hamilton on January 23rd.

Finance and Facilities- Action Item: MSC Treasurer’s Report: Income total is ahead 120% of budget received with 100% complete. Budgeted expense: on target 101% with 100% of the year complete. \$6,797 more income received than was expected. Undesignated funds for daily expense is at -\$10,598, which is a negative cash flow of \$6,156 from last year. Gifts that came in Dec. monthly contribution total: \$34,494, which included an anonymous donor paying off our \$13,000 mortgage. November’s giving was a total of \$23,619. This year’s expense total is \$204,078. Thank you notes for all of the generous Capital Campaign donations are in the works. On January 15th a Financial Review was held from 9am-12:00 noon. It was a blessing working together to check over our 2020 church financial records.

Men’s Group will hold Feb 3rd emergency water unit meeting with the city as a Men’s Breakfast Project.

Our church has been an incredible oasis of love, hope, and prayer during this entire month as the pandemic, deaths, illnesses, and daily challenges bring us together to accept God’s grace, hope and strength through these times.

Peace in Christ,

Lory Albright, Clerk of Session

A GENEROUS CONGREGATION!



As you know, the **Christmas Joy Offering** is one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our gift this year to the Christmas Joy Offering is a wonderful \$852!

As you know, your generous offerings will be divided equally to support pastors and their widows with special needs, and the five Racial and Ethnic Schools and Colleges sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA). We thank our always open-hearted congregation once again for your fine response!

You see a need, and you step up to help!

Thank You,

The Mission and Global Witness Committee

And we know that in all things
God works for the good
of those who love Him,
who have been called
according to *His purpose.*

Romans 8:28



BICYCLE GAP MINISTRY

2022 Begins our 6th year!

As we begin a new year, it is with much appreciation for the many adult and children's bicycles donated to our ministry,. The "Retired Recyclers" have had enough of a supply to spruce up so we can keep a nice "inventory" each time we are open. That supply would not be possible without our ability to pick up donated bikes. AND thanks to Alan Kolb, and Gary and Paula's faithful little truck, we can do that! Lois and Elise are VERY grateful to have those trucks available to us!! So, a BIG THANK YOU to Alan Kolb and to the Bucks!!

We were able to supply 73 bikes in 2021 to Love INC clients!

The Retired Recyclers work hard to make sure all donated bicycles are in good shape before we get them to distribute to those on our Love INC list!

Our clients are so grateful for their bikes – maybe they have a car they cannot afford to run any longer, or don't have any other means of transportation but good ole shoe leather. In those cases, they really appreciate the gift of transportation the bicycles give them.

So ... we thank the members of our congregation for the support you've given us over the years! Your hearty agreement to allow us to do this ministry, has been an encouragement to us!

And, we enjoy the challenge of the "job!!"

~The Mission and Global Witness Committee



Bob and Gracie Ekblad have a unique ministry, serving both in the U.S. and other places in the world. They are based in Burlington, Washington and have the Tiera Nueva ministry serving a variety of cultural groups including Latino and jail ministry. This article features a trip he and his daughter took to Budapest, Hungary in the summer of 2021.

"Recently my daughter Anna and I were in Budapest, Hungary, where we participated in the Changemaker festival, organized by the France-based Catholic-ecumenical order Chemin Neuf.

About 125 young people ages 18-34 gathered from across Europe for five days of worship, Biblical reflection, prayer and seminars on justice issues like migration, racial reconciliation, climate change and European unity. In the afternoons people broke into project groups. Fourteen people joined my project "Word, Spirit and Justice on the Streets."

We began each of our three-hour afternoon sessions looking at a Gospel text and explored together in detail how Jesus approached people-- calling them to join him, healing them of their pains and diseases, defending them from accusers, casting out spirits that oppressed them.

After each daily hour of reflection we broke into four groups, which always included one of our Hungarian-speaking participants. We sought to make ourselves available to the Holy Spirit to respond to people we encountered on the streets, or to initiate encounters.

On return everyone shared stories of surprising encounters with people on the streets. Each group engaged in respectful listening, and prayers of blessing for people. Some people even prayed for healing.

On the final day, after our group presented our project to all the festival participants there in a public park in the heart of the 8th District, we extended an invitation for anyone to join us on a final hour of street chaplaincy.

Participants came back excited, reporting moving encounters with people on the streets that included listening to their stories and praying for their healing. I'm sure that my "Word, Spirit and Justice on the Streets" participants are now less intimidated to engage in street chaplaincy back in their home countries. Anna and I return ready to engage afresh with our Tierra Nueva faith community in prayer walks through our streets here in the Skagit Valley."

While the new year is still fresh...

‘And there’s a hand, my trusty friend’

God Lifts Us Up When We Think We Can’t Get Up

By Donna Frischknecht Jackson / Presbyterians Today



Heavy snows bring down the trees along the writer’s path. But with a helping hand, they were made upright. Donna Frischknecht Jackson

The snow was wet and heavy, making it hard to shovel and even harder to trudge in. But trudge I did. In 2021, I committed to prayer walks no matter what the Vermont weather was, so I wasn’t going to let a “little” snow deter me from continuing this ritual into a new year. On went my boots and out the door I went. I challenged myself to climb a steep hill knowing my huffing and puffing would be rewarded by a breathtaking view. I was not disappointed. The valley below looked like a jewelry box filled with diamonds as the snow glistened. I continued up and over to the trail, where my walk hit a snag. Dozens of birch trees were bowed down from the weight of the snow, blocking my path. I had a choice: turn back or move forward. I chose the latter.

I ducked under and hopped over the trees lying prostrate to the ground, but I was tiring quickly. My walk had become both a physical and spiritual obstacle. I just couldn’t focus on God while focusing on not getting whacked in the face with an icy branch. It was then I had a thought. What if I helped these fallen trees? With my fuzzy mittens on, I grabbed hold of the smaller tree’s trunk and loosened the branches that were frozen to the ground. With a swoosh, the tree sprung up. I moved on to the next tree, then the next. I even tackled the larger trees, freeing them from their state of downtrodden-ness. And with each tree I freed, I began remembering the times when someone noticed me down for the count and how they didn’t ignore my dismal state. Rather, with an outstretched hand, they helped me back up.

The new year is just beginning, but it seems God’s beautiful Creation continues to be downtrodden. Everyone and everything seem to be weighed down by something. Recently, while waiting in the drugstore to receive my shingles vaccination, I took note of a woman sitting 6 feet from me. The mask she wore couldn’t mask the sadness in her eyes. I looked around and noticed so many shoppers wearing masks and couldn’t fathom that we have been living like this for two years now. Just then, I felt a paw on my knee. A man with a service dog had walked by, and his fur buddy had wandered over to me. I touched the paw and smiled.

It’s a tradition to sing “Auld Lang Syne” when the old year exits and a new one enters with revelers who are still awake at midnight, belting out something about old acquaintances being forgotten. But there’s a line to Robert Burns’ poem penned in 1788 that often goes unnoticed. It’s the one that goes, “And there’s a hand, my trusty friend, and give me a hand o’ thine.” I’m not sure if the Scottish bard was getting religious, but that line chokes me up as I remember there is indeed a hand that lifts us up when we think we have no strength — or will — to get up. It’s a hand that comforts us when scared, soothes us when agitated and cradles us when broken. There’s the hand of God, my trusty friends, inviting you to grab hold of it. And when you find yourself standing tall again, reach your hand out to another. For then will we “take a cup of kindness yet” that Burns speaks of.

Donna Frischknecht Jackson is the editor of Presbyterians Today.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0122-editor/>



Our Church Community: Get Involved!



Adult Education class is held at 9:00 am every Sunday. Class is held in the Fellowship Hall, which allows for social distancing. Please wear masks to keep everyone safe and healthy. Currently the theme of our study is on "wisdom."



Men's Breakfast is held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 8:00 am. To learn more, please contact Gary Buck through his email, gbuck41108@mindspring.com or give him a call at 503-250-1163. He'll give you all the information you need to join up with new friends and old!



Bike Ministry

In partnership with Love INC

First Presbyterian Church partners with Love INC in providing bikes to eligible clients. These clients are screened by Love INC to determine need and eligibility. Many times people who are getting back on their feet need to have more reliable transportation than their feet.

First Presbyterian's Bike Ministry takes in donated bikes, delivers them to the Retired Recyclers for repair and rehab, and, once the bikes are returned all fixed up, serves as a distribution point for Love INC clients to choose the bike best suited to them.

If you would like to help out with this ministry, please contact Elise Prayzich at 307-690-3762. Strong arms and trucks are greatly appreciated!



Calling all who love to sing! Our choir, led by Pat Goodman, is always looking for new voices to praise God. Consider this your invitation to join one of the liveliest, most fun-loving and

welcoming groups you'll ever run into. Contact Pat Goodman (pat88g@frontier.com) for more information. All are welcome!

CAYAC



Join Now!

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Newberg First Presbyterian Church started CAYAC, which stands for College and Young Adult Community, in the fall of 2018. This year CAYAC meets the 1st and 2nd Mondays of each month. The first Monday meeting will be an in-person one; the second meeting happens via ZOOM. Feel free to contact Pastor Chris at murphyxcb@frontier.com, if you know any college students or other young adults who would be interested in participating in CAYAC. We are also accepting donations to help buy food when we meet in person. Please also be in prayer for our young adults as they navigate the challenges of the pandemic and balance school, work, and other responsibilities.



Space for Grace Women's Fellowship

meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month. This year we meet in the church Fellowship Hall where we can spread out for safe distancing. Masks will also be part of our plan in order to keep everyone healthy. For more information, please call Mary Kalesse (503-644-5502) or Paula Buck (503-250-1164.) See you soon!



Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga class is taking a break during the month of February. Normally class is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in joining this restorative class when it resumes, contact Lory Albright at lorylyn808@gmail.com or call her at 971-226-8407. Class is led by Lory, who has finished her training to be a licensed yoga instructor. She is happy to share her gifts of love and joy, as well as her training with her church family. See you there!

February 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	 2 9:00-1:00- Bike Ministry 6:30 pm- Deacon's Meeting	3 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	4	5
6 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service 	7 5:30-7:30 pm- CAYAC meets in- person	8 6:30 pm- Session Meeting	9	10	11 10:00 am- Space for Grace	12
13 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service 	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via Zoom	15	16 9:00-1:00- Bike Ministry	17 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast Pew News articles & dates due today!	18	19
20 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service 	21 <i>HAPPY Presidents DAY</i> 	22	23	24 6:30 pm- Finance & Facilities (Zoom)	25 10:00 am- Space for Grace	26
27 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service 	28	Adult Education happens each Sunday at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall				
		Children's Worship for children happens each Sunday. Children will leave Worship right before the sermon and join their teacher for fun and learning!				

Birthdays

4- Lory Albright
 4- Douglas King
 7- Jenny Huwe
 9- Don Albright
 14- Monik Kadaronto
 16- Jim Bonsey
 17- Dick Sahagian
 19- Carl Patrick

19- Paula Buck
 21- Sandi Olmstead
 27- Wilma Loeks
 27- Glenn Sorum

February Birthdays

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2-8-22 6:30 pm Session Meeting
Pastor Chris Murphy may be reached at his
email: murphycb@frontier.com
or by calling the church office at 503-538-3313

Our website address is : newbergfpc.org



NEWBERG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.